

History Detectives Bringing Stories of African American Civil War Soldiers Alive at Fort Pickens



Project Title	History Detectives Bringing Stories of African American Civil War Soldiers Alive at Fort Pickens
Project Summary	Bring history alive at Gulf Islands National Seashore by researching the lives of the 25th United States Colored Troops who served at Fort Pickens during the Civil War. Park staff will use this information to share the seldom-heard stories of their bravery and sacrifice with park visitors.
Country	United States

Project Description

The 25th United States Colored Troops (USCT) was an African American regiment comprised of free and formally enslaved men who served at Fort Pickens (now part of Gulf Islands National Seashore) during the Civil War. Park staff are missing the details needed to bring these important stories to life. This project will support an intern to research the 25th USCT using primary sources and other resources found outside the park. Matching funds are available to assist with research fees and/or travel to the Library of Congress and National Archives. Park staff will use this research to convey individual stories of 25th USCT soldiers who played a vital role in the history of Fort Pickens, and enhance community pride and recognition of the deep and varied African American history in the area.

Required Skills or Interests

Skill(s)

Research

Writing

Additional Information

Completed in 1834 by African American slaves, Fort Pickens was the largest masonry fort on Pensacola Bay.

The fort was held by Union soldiers and never captured by the Confederates during the Civil War. The 25th USCT arrived at Fort Pickens in 1864 and were stationed there through the end of the war. Today, Fort Pickens is part of Gulf Islands National Seashore, which preserves coastal forts, barrier islands, and wilderness along the northern Gulf Coast.

For general information about Gulf Islands National Seashore, visit www.nps.gov/gulfislands.

Language Requirements

None